The Contractor shall make shotcrete test panels for evaluation of shotcrete quality, strength, and asthetics. Both preproduction and production test panels, shall be prepared. All cores obtained for the purpose of shotcrete strength testing shall have the following minimum dimensions:

- The core diameter shall be at least 3 times the maximum aggregate size, but not less than 50 millimeters.
- b. The core height shall be a minimum of 1.5 times the core diameter.

The cores will be obtained and tested in accordance with AASHTO T 24. Cores removed from the panel shall be immediately wrapped in wet burlap and sealed in a plastic bag. Cores shall be clearly marked to identify from where they were taken and whether they are for pre-production or production testing. If for production testing, the section of the wall represented by the cores shall be clearly marked on the cores. Cores shall be delivered to the Engineer within 2 hours of coring. The remainder of the panels shall remain the property of the Contractor.

**Pre-production Testing** 

At least one 915 by 915 millimeter panel for each mix design shall be prepared for evaluation and testing of the shotcrete quality and strength. One 1220 by 1220 millimeter qualification panel shall be prepared for evaluation and approval of the proposed method for shotcrete installation, finishing, and curing. Both the 915 millimeter and the 1220 millimeter panels shall be constructed using the same methods and initial curing proposed to construct the shotcrete wall, except that the 915 millimeter panel shall not include wire reinforcement. The 915 millimeter panel shall be constructed to the minimum thickness necessary to obtain the required core samples. The 1220 millimeter panel shall be constructed to the same thickness as proposed for the wall face. Production shotcrete work shall not begin until satisfactory test results are obtained and the panels are approved by the Engineer.

**Production Testing** 

The Contractor shall make at least one 915 by 915 millimeter panel for each section of wall shot, or as many as directed by the Engineer. A section is defined as one day's placement. The production panels shall be constructed using the same methods and initial curing used to construct the shotcrete wall, but without wire reinforcement. The panels shall be constructed to the minimum thickness necessary to obtain the required core samples. If the production shotcrete is found to be unsuitable based on the results of the test panels, the section(s) of the wall represented by the test panel(s) shall be repaired or replaced to the satisfaction of the Engineer at no cost to the Contracting Agency.